

Message Text

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46

ACTION EUR-25

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INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14

USIA-12 EB-11 SY-07 JUSE-00 DOTE-00 SCA-01 AID-20

FAA-00 CAB-09 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 M-03 USSS-00

RSR-01 /166 W

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INFO USMISSION NATO

USUN NEW YORK 688

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINS, NL

SUBJECT: GON POLICY AND ACTIONS RE TERRORISM

1. FOLLOWING ITEMS HAVE APPEARED IN DUTCH PRESS SERVICE:

" MARCH 28 - THE TRAINING OF LONG- RANGE MARKSMEN FOR FIGHTING TERRORISM STARTED IN NOVEMBER LAST YEAR, THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, PROF. A. VAN AGT, SAID TODAY IN A NOTE TO THE SECOND CHAMBER.

" THE MINISTER DECLINED ' FOR OBVIOUS REASONS' TO SAY HOW MANY PEOPLE WERE INVOLVED IN THE TRAINING AND HOW MANY UNITS WERE BEING SET UP.

" HE SAID THE UNITS WERE MEANT IN PARTICULAR FOR USE AGAINST SUCH ACTS OF TERRORISM AS THE ATTACK ON THE INDO- NESIAN EMBASSY IN 1970, BOMB ATTACKS ON OIL INSTALLATIONS AND THE GAS UNION IN 1972 AND OTHER BOMB ATTACKS. THE DECISION TO SET UP THE UNITS WAS ALSO BASED, HOWEVER, ON THE INCREASING NUMBER OF HIJACKED AIRCRAFT AND THE TRAGIC EVENTS DURING THE OLYMPIC GAMES IN MUNICH LAST YEAR.

" PROFESSOR VAN AGT STRESSED THAT THERE WAS NO QUESTION OF INTERNATIONALLY COORDINATED ACTIVITIES TO FIGHT TERRORISM.

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(EMBASSY COMMENT: FULL TRANSLATION OF THIS PORTION OF MINISTER' S NOTE IS AS FOLLOWS: ' THERE IS NO QUESTION OF INTERNATIONALLY COORDINATED ACTIVITIES TO FIGHT TERRORISM. HOWEVER, EFFORTS WILL BE MADE, PARTICULARLY IN UNITED NATIONS CONTEXT, TO ESTABLISH TREATIES WHICH AIM AT COUNTERACTING POLITICALLY MOTIVATED ACTS OF TERRORISM OF AN INTERNATIONAL CHARACTER.')

" HE SAID THAT THE UNITS WERE BEING COMPOSED OF VOLUNTEERS FROM THE STATE POLICE, THE ROYAL CONSTABULARY AND THE REGULAR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.

" THESE VOLUNTEERS HAD BEEN TOLD THAT THEY REMAINED SUBJECT TO THE CURRENT INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING THE USE OF VIOLENCE; BUT THEY COULD BE ORDERED TO ACT IN SUCH A WAY THAT A PERSON MIGHT BE KILLED, FOR INSTANCE, IF THIS WOULD BE THE ONLY MEANS TO AVERT AN IMMEDIATE THREAT TO INNOCENT PERSONS, THE NOTE SAID."

2. " MARCH 29 - THE SPECIAL UNITS OF LONG- RANGE MARKSMEN TO FIGHT TERRORISM WILL BE USED ONLY AS A LAST RESORT, THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, MR. A. VAN AGT, TOLD THE SECOND CHAMBER' S STANDING COMMITTEE TODAY.

" THE MINISTER, TOGETHER WITH HOME AFFAIRS MINISTER GEERTSEMA AND DEFENCE MINISTER DE KOSTER, EXCHANGED VIEWS WITH THE COMMITTEE ON THE PLANNED MEASURES AGAINST TERRORISM.

" THEY EXPLAINED THAT THE MEASURES ALSO ENVISAGED ' CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAMS' WHICH WOULD INCLUDE PSYCHIATRISTS AND PSYCHOLOGISTS.

" THE MARKSMEN WERE NOT BEING TRAINED TO BE KILLERS, MR. VAN AGT SAID. THEY WOULD SHOOT PRIMARILY IN ORDER TO ELIMINATE TERRORISTS.

" THE DECISION TO SEND A SPECIAL UNIT TO A PARTICULAR PLACE WOULD BE TAKEN ON GOVERNMENT LEVEL. THE DECISION WHETHER THE MEN SHOULD TAKE ACTION IN SUCH A CASE WOULD BE TAKEN LATER ON THE SAME LEVEL, THE MINISTER SAID.

" HE REITERATED THAT THE UNITS WOULD NOT BE USED IN CASES OF DISTURBANCES OF THE PEACE OR AGAINST DEMONSTRATIONS, ETC., BUT ' ONLY IN VERY EXCEPTIONAL CASES'. SUCH CASES COULD, FOR INSTANCE, INCLUDE DESPERADOS OCCUPYING A NUCLEAR POWER STATION OR THE RIJKSMUSEUM NATIONAL GALLERY WHILE THREATENING TO SET FIRE TO THE ART TREASURES THERE."

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